Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* A survey is in progress. I may say it is about 60 per cent over.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* Can we expect it this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I cannot promise that the work can be started in 1118. But it can be started early in 1119.

CHENGAL BRIDGE—UNSAFE CONDITION OF

170. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the unsafe condition of the Chengal Bridge of the Trichur—Ernakulam Trunk Road;

(*b*) was not this subject brought to the notice of the Government during the Kumbham session;

(*c*) what action was taken in the matter subsequently?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) The condition of the bridge is not satisfactory; but repairs are being done according to necessity.

(*b*) There was a question on this subject.

(*c*) The damaged planks of the deck have been renewed wherever necessary. Such repairs will be attended to till the entire decking is renewed.

THANIKUDAM IRRIGATION SCHEME

171. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they had at any time investigated an irrigation scheme called the Thanikudam Irrigation Scheme;

(*b*) when was that investigation conducted;

(*c*) how many acres of land were found possible to be benefitted by the scheme (please give details);

(*d*) what was the amount spent on the investigation;

(*e*) what is the probable cost to work the scheme to completion?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) During the years 1108—1109.

(*c*) (1) About 800 acres of dry land can be converted into single crop wet.

(2) About 400 acres of single crop can be converted into double crop.

(3) About 600 acres of existing double crop land also will have the benefit of irrigation supply.

(*d*) No separate accounts were kept for this scheme alone and hence it is not possible to give the figure. This scheme was investigated along with the others.

(*e*) The scheme was then estimated to cost Rs. 43,000. Details are being collected for the preparation of an estimate now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know why such a useful scheme as the one investigated in 1108 and 1109 was not pushed further during the course of these 9 years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We submitted the scheme and the Revenue Department also scrutinised and they were of opinion that it cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty that the 800 acres of dry land will then be converted into single crop. In 1108 and 1109 the price of paddy was very low and so there was no prospect of these 800 acres of parambas being converted into single crop lands. If these 800 acres cannot be converted into single crop or will not be converted into single crop the scheme becomes very unremunerative. The extra income which the Government may have to incur on this scheme will not commensurate with the expenditure involved. That was why the scheme was postponed. But now with the improvement in the price of paddy the Government feel that the scheme will be useful and I will submit an estimate within about 6 weeks' time.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether there was not a scheme called the Naduthodu Anicut Scheme in 1099 and 1100.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There was no such scheme.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I think there was a scheme during the time of Diwan Mr. Narayana Menon.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is quite a different scheme. That was for the construction of a dam at Naduthodu about 75 feet high for the benefit of the kole lands there. That was during the time of Mr. Narayana Ayyar.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* There are no kole lands there. It is just about Kallayi Chira.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The water from that reservoir is to be taken to the kole lands for irrigation.

Announcement of the extention of the term of the Council

Mr. President: I have to announce that His Highness is pleased to order that the term of the present Legislative Council will be further extended by one year from the 14th of July 1943.

Announcement of the Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee

I have to announce that nomination papers for the election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee have been received from Messrs. V. K. Bhaskara Menon, P. P. Devassy, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan and A. B. Salem. The election will be conducted at 5 p.m. today by the Secretary to the Government.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILL

The Cochin Village Courts Bill—*(cont.)*

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Village Courts Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* With your leave, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Members of this House for the easy and speedy passage they have vouchsafed for the Bill and for the very valuable and helpful suggestions that they have made, the acceptance of which has in no small measure conduced to the evolving of a much improved bill. It is impossible to exaggerate the help I have received by the useful and constructive proposals that have been made on the various provisions of the Bill and the manner in which the various sections of the House co-operated with me in this matter. The helpful attitude adopted by the House is, I feel, not a little due to the desire on the part of the Hon'ble Members to see that the local tribunals discharge their legitimate role in the way it is expected of them. Nor am I unmindful of the very heavy responsibility that has consequently fallen on my shoulders to deserve the trust and confidence reposed in me and it shall be my endeavour to repay this trust and confidence and see to the best of my ability that these Courts function in the efficient manner they should. I thank you, Sir.

(At this stage the Hon'ble President vacated the Chair and Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan, B.A., Deputy President, took the Chair.)

Non-official Buisness—Bills

(1) The Cochin Child Marriage Restraint Act (Amendment) Bill *(cont.)*

Deputy President: Now we can continue the discussion on Mr. Iyyu's Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I had the privilege of complimenting the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam the day before yesterday for having tabled a very sensible resolution, perhaps the most sensible that he has hitherto done. I am sorry that as far as this amendment is concerned I have to do the very reverse. The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam with his indefatigable energy stated yesterday in this House that he had been touring—nay even raiding all the villages of the State—in his new sphere of activities and he was telling us that during those sojourns he had the miserable misfortune to come across widowed mothers, fatherless children, both boys and girls, and it was, he said, to redress the grievances of those persons as a result of the Child Marriage Restraint Act in existence now that he tabled the amendment. That was his statement. But information available hitherto does not show that nobody who had joined the army in the present titanic struggle has been included in the casuality list thereof. That was Cochin's good fortune. We have to work upon real statistics when we make statements like this.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* On a point of information, Sir, without interruption I may say that the Government have decided to conduct a survey of the conditions of the families of those who have gone for military service and the survey will be over during this summer and after that we will find the enormous number of orphans in the State.

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